THOUGHTS & IMAGES

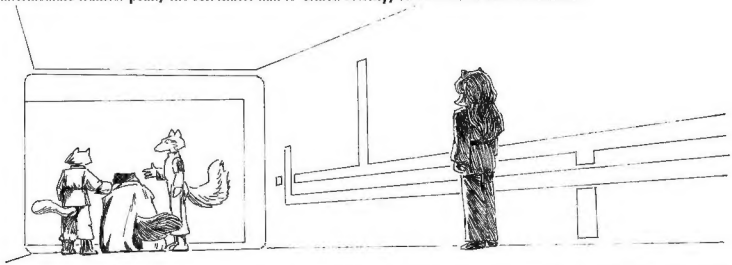
ALBEDO

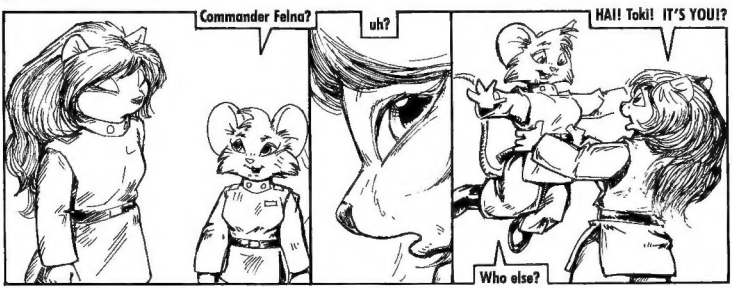
NR. 11
$2.00

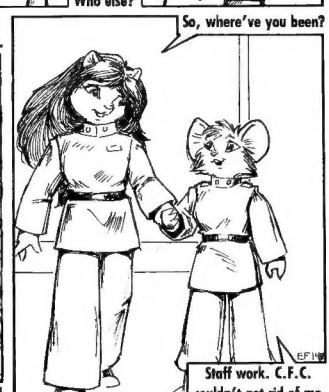
ANTHROPOMORPHICS

ERMA FELNA, EDF

Commander Felna has departed Ekosiak, escorting Confed secretary to be turned over to higher authorities, following his covert criminal activities. Upon arrival in the Ahnomia System, an intermediate transfer point, she surrenders him to Confed security, and awaits further instructions.







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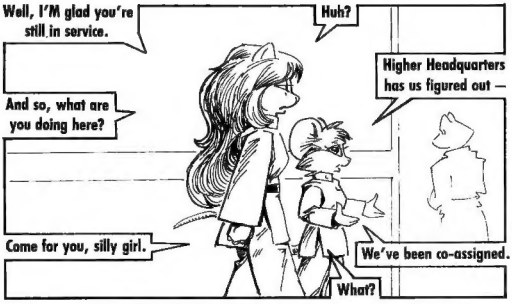
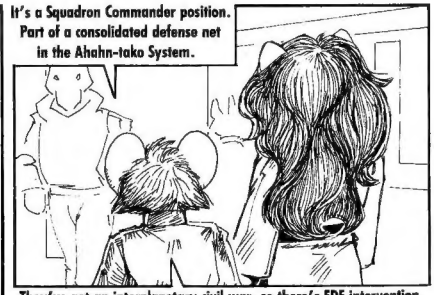
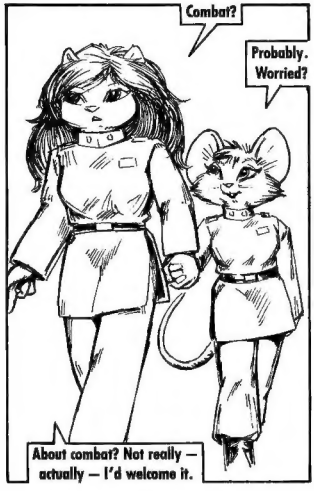
P.O. BOX 13419, SEATTLE, WA 98109 PRINTED BY VALCO GRAPHICS, TYPE BY ROCKET TYPE.


Well, I'M glad you're still in service.
Huh?
Higher Headquarters has us figured out —
And so, what are you doing here?
Come for you, silly girl.
We've been co-assigned.
What?

Yeap! We've got a command slot in Ish-tako.
You'll fly, I'll push paper.

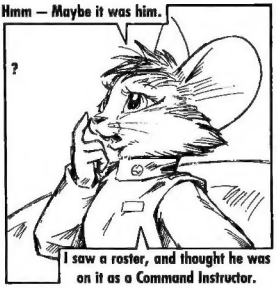
Gosh, how thoughtful.
So, tell me about it.


It's a Squadron Commander position. Part of a consolidated defense net in the Ahahn-tako System.
They've got an interplanetary civil war, so there's EDF intervention.

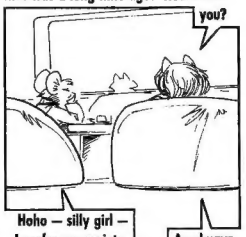

Combat?
Probably. Worried?
About combat? Not really — actually — I'd welcome it.

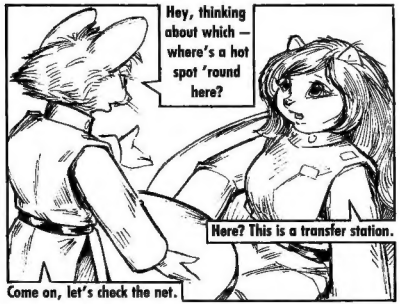
Hm — had lunch?
Let's go.

So — how's your love life? Don't see Tavas around.
Umph! Opted for training just before Derzon.
You're kidding.

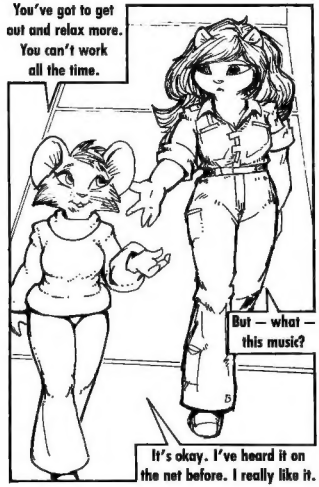

Hmm — Maybe it was him.
?
I saw a roster, and thought he was on it as a Command Instructor.

Sounds about right.
Sorry to bring it up.

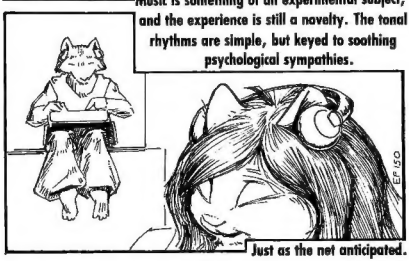

No — don't worry — that was a long time ago. How about you?
Hoho — silly girl — I prefer my variety.
As always.


Hey, thinking about which — where's a hot spot 'round here?
Here? This is a transfer station.
Come on, let's check the net.

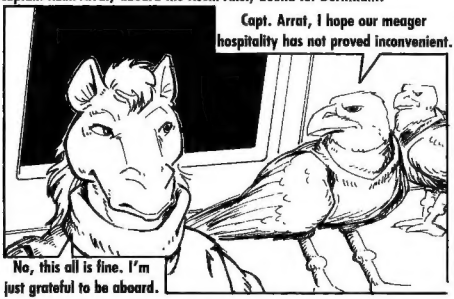
Ah! Here we go! Some guy's doing music tonight.
I don't know —
Relax. We've got 50 hours before departure.

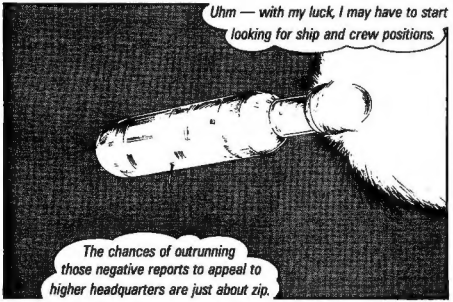

You've got to get out and relax more. You can't work all the time.
But — what — this music?
It's okay. I've heard it on the net before. I really like it.

Here ya go.
Music is something of an experimental subject, and the experience is still a novelty. The tonal rhythms are simple, but keyed to soothing psychological sympathies.

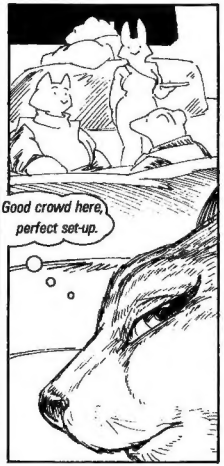

Just as the net anticipated.

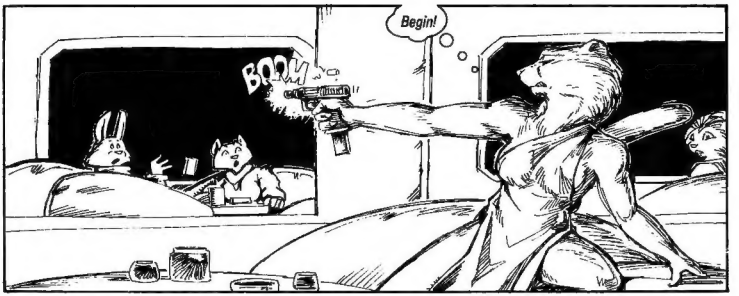
Captain Itzak Arrat, aboard the Koshi Akoi, bound for Dornthant.





Meanwhile, aboard the Koshata-Ti, bound for Ahnomia.




Begin!
BOOM!

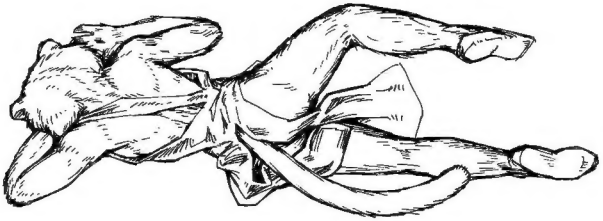
How soon will I be stopped?

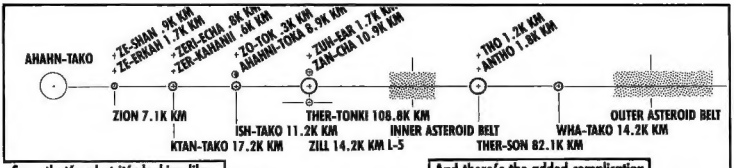
Ah! Could that be a hero?

Give him one chance.

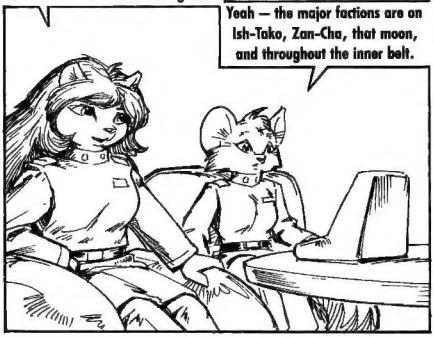
Excellent!

Hold it! You're under arrest!
No, that won't do.

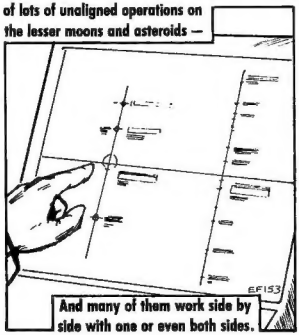




So — that's what it's looking like.



And there's the added complication of lots of unaligned operations on the lesser moons and asteroids —



Hmm — what's the arms-tech base?

Nothing unusual actually, most of the actional is personal, close-in.

?

Well, what's happening is mostly sabotage or armed infiltrations into service and manufacturing assets.

So — our role will be mostly counterinsurgency?

Actually, around Ish-Tako, we're tasked with defending near-orbital space.

Both sides hold territory and will fire on anything within about 10M Km. Normally, we'd just let them have at it, but they represent less than 20 percent of the population and the non-participants petitioned Confed and EDF for help.

So far, the 10th ASD Wing and 580th Special Ops have been running escort. Not much in real action — yet. For outer system duty, mostly incercepts and COIN Ops, there's the DH87, 112, 284 and 285. And the FSV 18 providing support and command and control.

So, what am I going to do?

You're going to be squadron commander, like I said earlier, under the 10th, D-8 gunships and all the ACVs you can eat.

Hm, squadron commander — I like the sound of that.

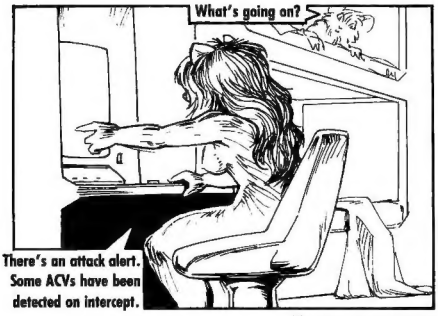
Remember, it's WE are squadron commander.

Yeah — as long as I get to do all the flying.

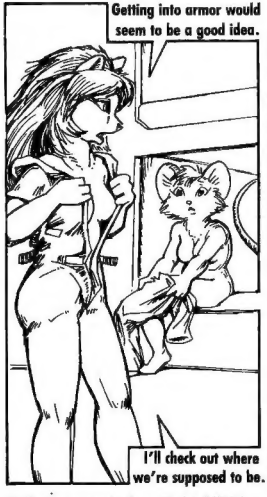
You can have it.

ALARM!

EF 154

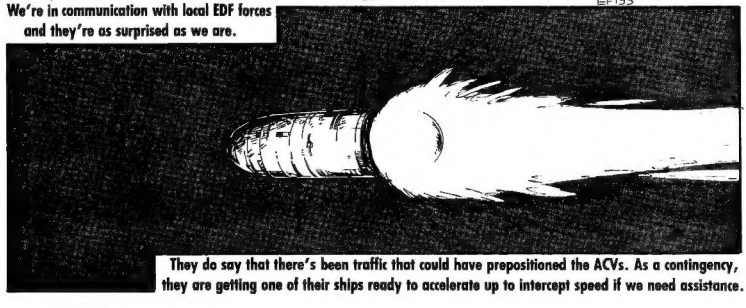

What's going on?
There's an attack alert. Some ACVs have been detected on intercept.

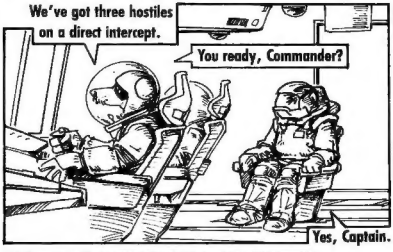
It's going to be a couple of hours —
but it looks like the real thing.

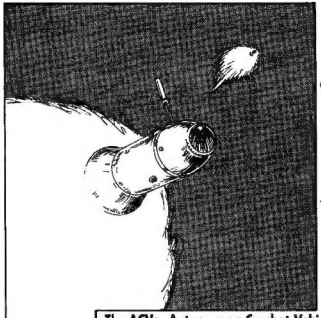

Getting into armor would seem to be a good idea.
I'll check out where we're supposed to be.

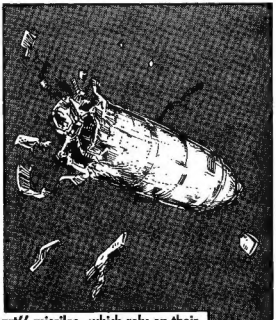
Khai, here we are, just jumped in-system, and there's hostilities already.
There wasn't anything in the initial communiques to suggest anything like this.

Ah, Commander Felna, could you coordinate the rated EDF personnel to assist our crew?
Certainly, Captain.
We've had simulator training — but not the real thing.
So, we're going to need your help.
EF155

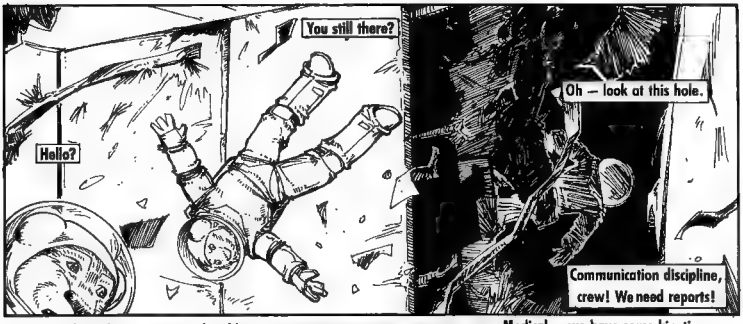

We're in communication with local EDF forces and they're as surprised as we are.
They do say that there's been traffic that could have prepositioned the ACVs. As a contingency, they are getting one of their ships ready to accelerate up to intercept speed if we need assistance.

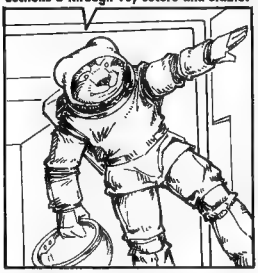






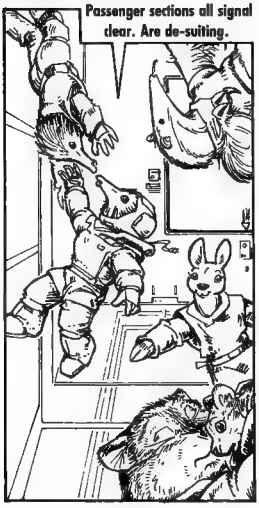
The ACVs, Autonomous Combat Vehicles, are multi-ton "smart" missiles, which rely on their enormous relative velocities, as well as any warhead, to inflict damage. All three are struck by the Liner's point defense weapons, but debris from one still strikes with explosive results.

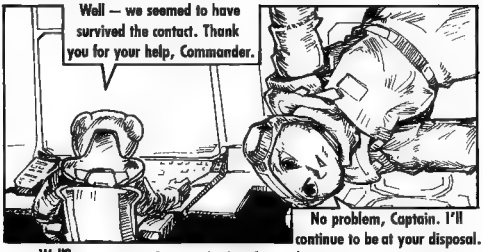

You still there?
Hello?
Oh — look at this hole.
Communication discipline, crew! We need reports!

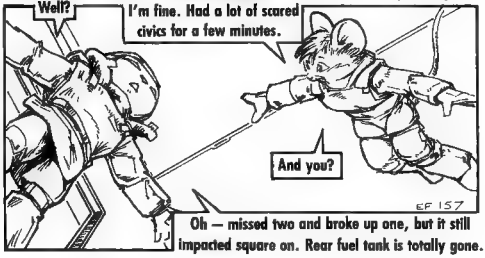

Sections 8 through 10, secure and stable.

Engineering section 2, catastrophic decomp — major kinetic through penetrations. All on-section crew lost.

Medical — we have some kinetic injuries, none critical so far.


Passenger sections all signal clear. Are de-suiting.


Well — we seemed to have survived the contact. Thank you for your help, Commander.
No problem, Captain. I'll continue to be at your disposal.


Well?
I'm fine. Had a lot of scared civics for a few minutes.
And you?
EF 157
Oh — missed two and broke up one, but it still impacted square on. Rear fuel tank is totally gone.

I saw the preliminary damage displays.
And?
The main propulsion system is probably totaled as well.

All citizens, this is the Captain.
Ah — here it comes.

As you are aware, the ship has suffered significant damage. We have, nevertheless, survived the ordeal, and our environment and resources are largely intact. However, our main propulsors are inoperative and we will be without any decelerative forces. For those of you inexperienced with ZeeGee, feel free to ask members of the crew for assistance. We will be rendezvousing with an EDF heavy frigate, the DH 284, in approximately 700 hours. In the meantime, we will attempt to make the wait tolerable.

Oh well. So much for timely arrivals.
Tell you what, let's get into normal duty uniforms and circulate around.
I got ya.

Commander?
Hello, Specialist.
The emergency is over, so why the armor?
Change and help me relax the passengers.

Woop! Woop!
ZeeGee party in recreation area!
Wee!
EF158

konny and czu

in DEBT CHAPTER 1

I DON'T SEE WHY I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO MAKE THE DELIVERY, KONNY.

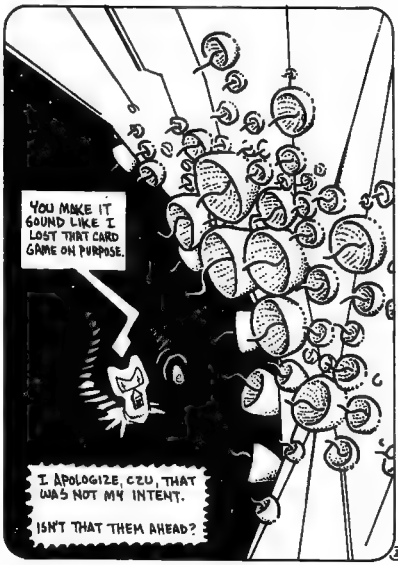
THIS COLD IS BITING RIGHT THROUGH MY VAC-SUIT.

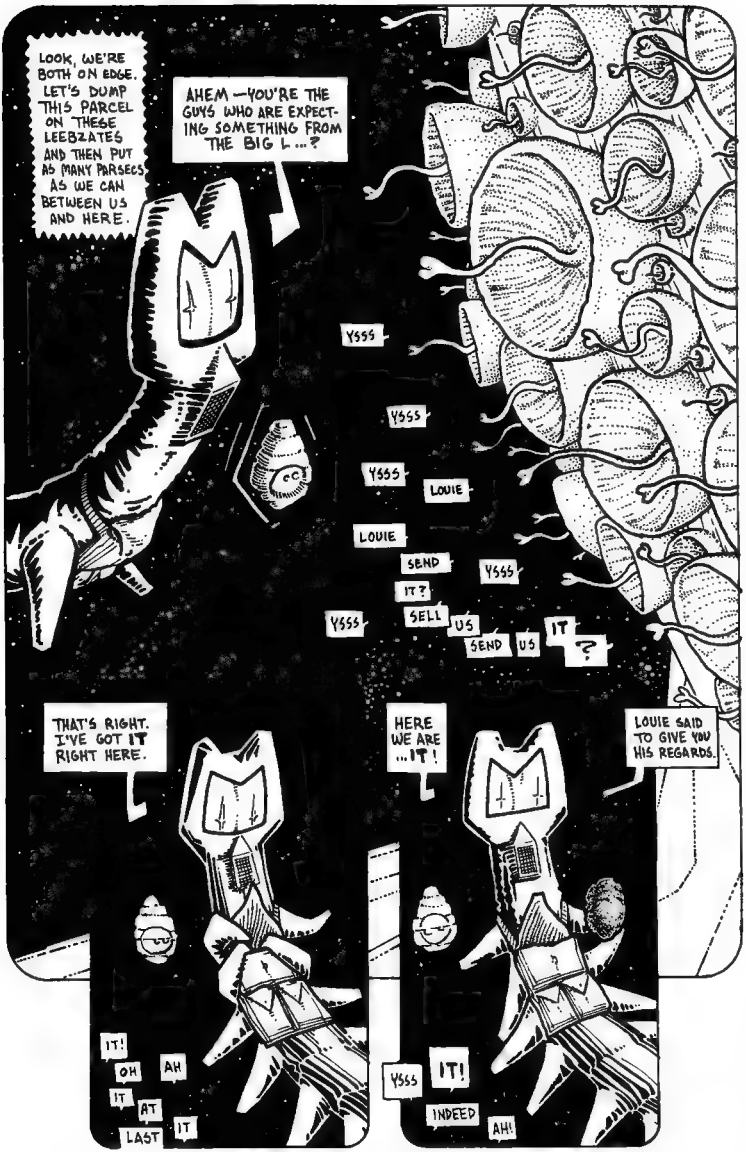
YES, CZU, YOU'RE QUITE UNCOMFORTABLE.

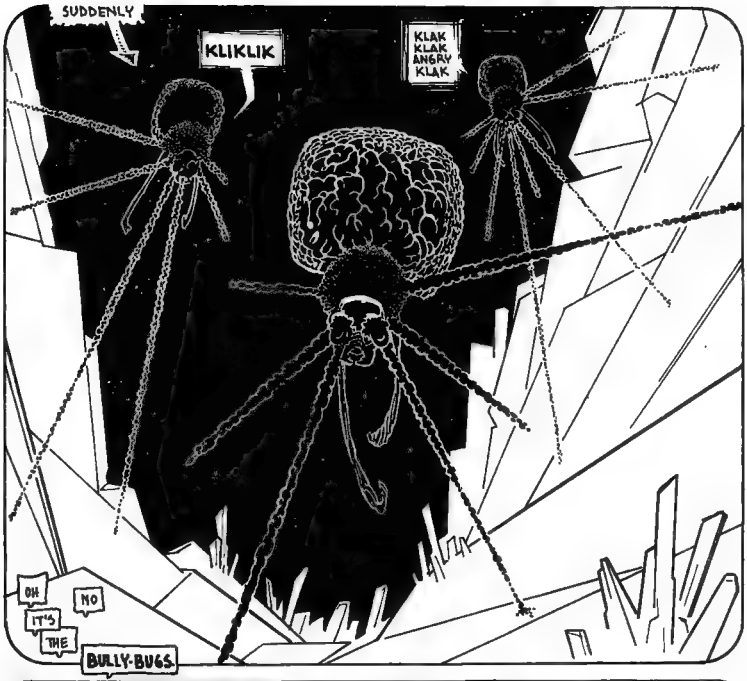
© 1987 MATT HOWARTH & D.M. KISTER

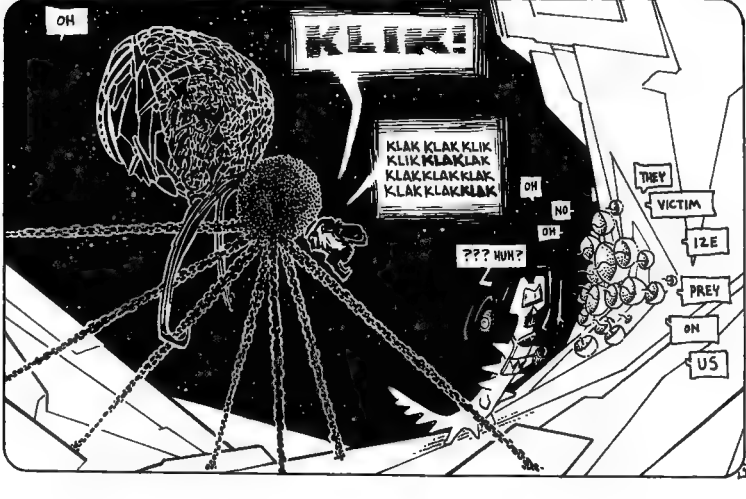
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT US INTO THIS MESS, CZU. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT DECIMALLED BY CARD-SNARK LOUIE. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO AGREED TO RUN CONTRABAND HERE TO CANCEL YOUR DEBT. (ALTHOUGH WHY LOUIE ISN'T USING HIS OWN DELIVERY NET IS BEYOND ME.)
I DON'T FIND IT SURPRISING AT ALL THAT I'M THE ONE WHO'S UP HERE IN A NICE WARM SHIP, AND YOU'RE THE ONE DOWN THERE.
IN THE COLD.

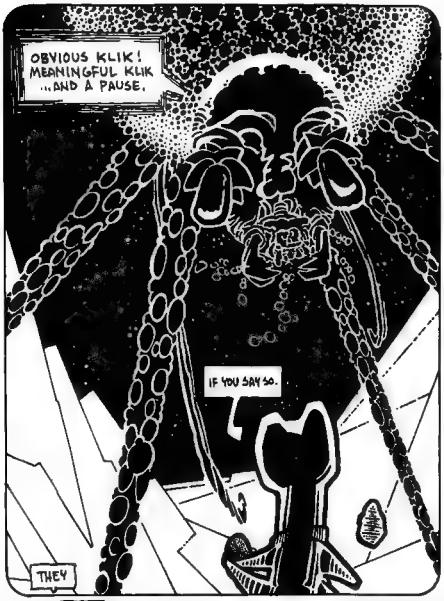
WELL, YOU SURPRISE ME! I'D HAVE SHARED WITH YOU IF I'D'VE WON THAT NEEL-CARD GAME!
A TOUCHING SENTIMENT, CZU. CAN WE MOVE ALONG AND GET THIS OVER WITH? THIS IS A RESTRICTED WORLD, AND I WOULDN'T WANT A ROVING SENTRY SHIP TO CATCH US WITH WHAT'S IN YOUR LAP-PACK.
I SENT ONE OF MY EYES DOWN WITH YOU. THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH ?

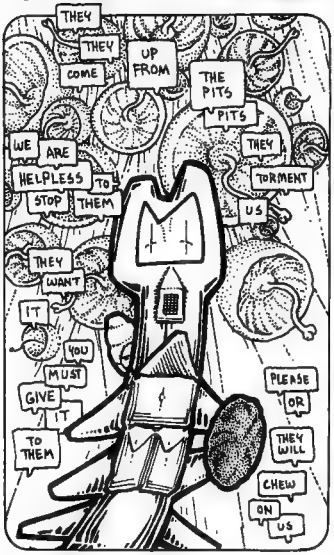

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I LOST THAT CARD GAME ON PURPOSE.
I APOLOGIZE, CZU, THAT WAS NOT MY INTENT.
ISN'T THAT THEM AHEAD?


LOOK, WE'RE BOTH ON EDGE. LET'S DUMP THIS PARCEL ON THESE LEEBZATES AND THEN PUT AS MANY PARSECS AS WE CAN BETWEEN US AND HERE.
AHEM —YOU'RE THE GUYS WHO ARE EXPECTING SOMETHING FROM THE BIG L...?
YSSS
YSSS
YSSS
LOUIE
LOUIE
SEND
YSSS
IT?
YSSS
SELL
US
SEND
US
IT
?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE.
HERE WE ARE ...IT!
LOUIE SAID TO GIVE YOU HIS REGARDS.
IT!
OH
AH
IT
AT
LAST
IT
YSSS
IT!
INDEED
AH!

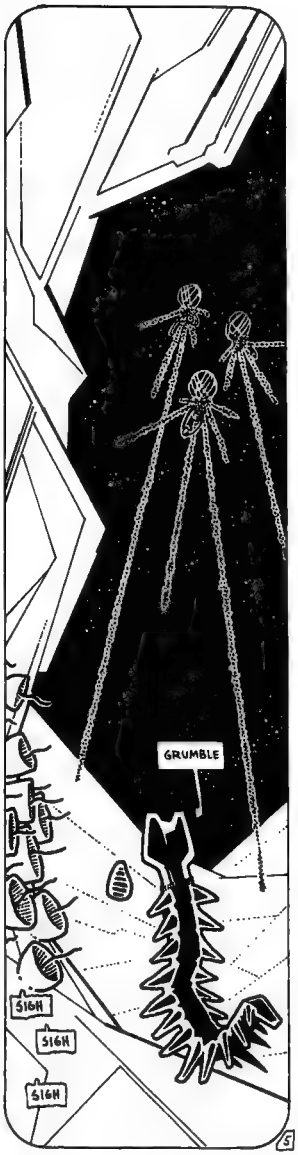

SUDDENLY
KLIKLIK
KLAK KLAK ANGRY KLAK
OH
IT'S
THE
NO
BULLY-BUGS

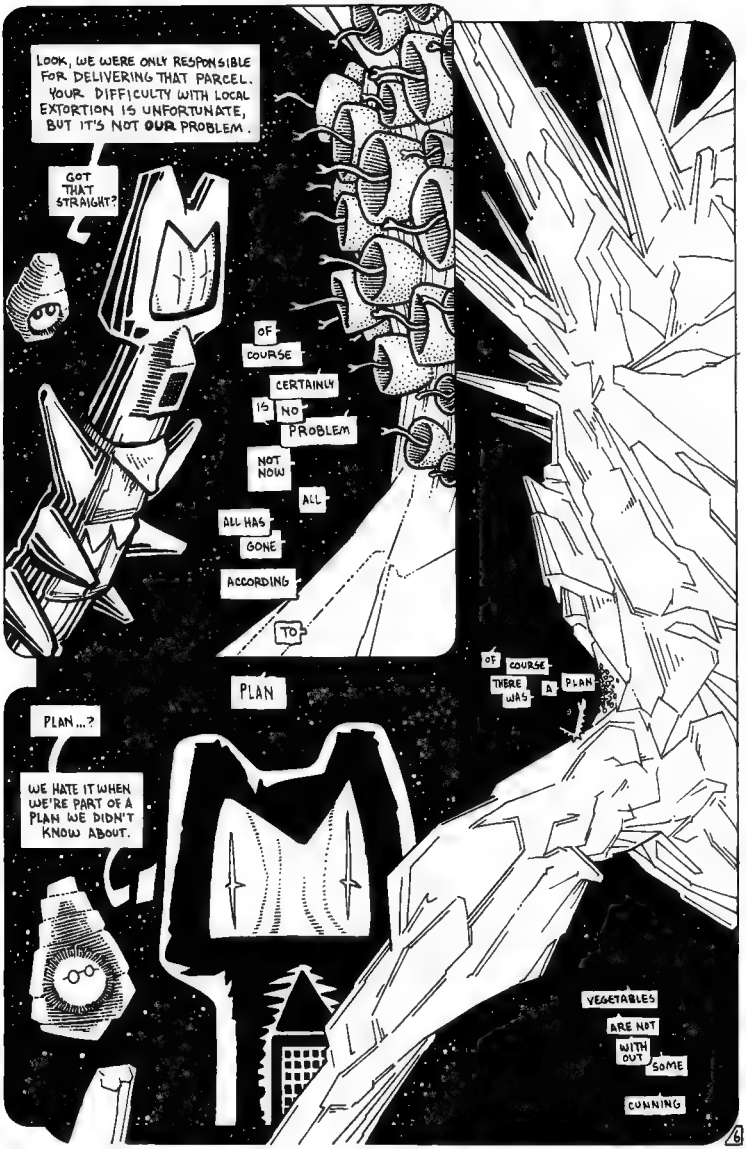

OH
KLIK!
KLAK KLAK KLIK KLIK KLAKLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAKLAK
OH
NO
OH
??? HUH?
THEY
VICTIM
IZE
PREY
ON
US


OBVIOUS KLIK! MEANINGFUL KLIK ...AND A PAUSE.
IF YOU SAY SO.
THEY


THEY
THEY
COME
UP FROM
THE PITS
PITS
THEY
TORMENT
US
WE
ARE
HELPLESS
TO
STOP
THEM
THEY
WANT
IT
YOU
MUST
GIVE
IT
TO THEM
PLEASE
OR
THEY WILL
CHEW
ON
US

OKAY...


GRUMBLE
SIGH
SIGH
SIGH

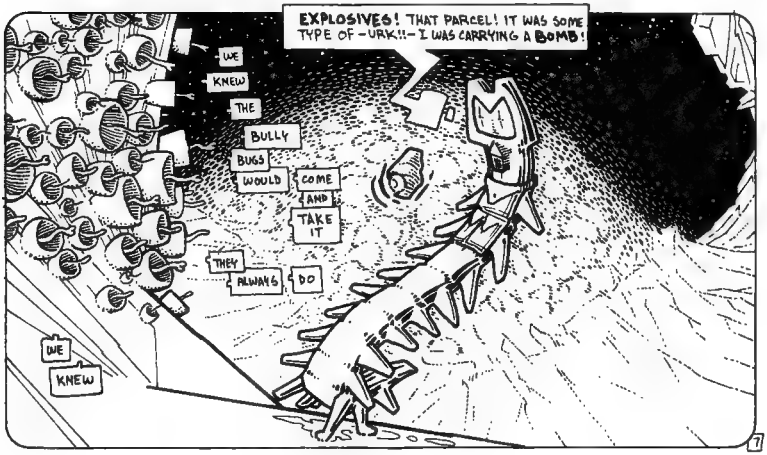

LOOK, WE WERE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THAT PARCEL. YOUR DIFFICULTY WITH LOCAL EXTORTION IS UNFORTUNATE, BUT IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM.
GOT THAT STRAIGHT?
OF COURSE
CERTAINLY
IS NO PROBLEM
NOT NOW
ALL
ALL HAS GONE
ACCORDING TO
PLAN
OF COURSE THERE WAS A PLAN
PLAN...?
WE HATE IT WHEN WE'RE PART OF A PLAN WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.
VEGETABLES ARE NOT WITHOUT SOME CUNNING

WE HAD BEEN VICTIMIZED TOO MUCH LONG TOO MUCH SOONER OR LATER EVEN FLORA WILL FIGHT BACK

THUMM

!

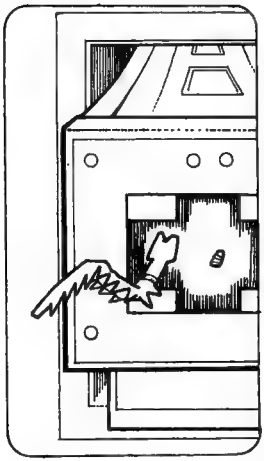
?

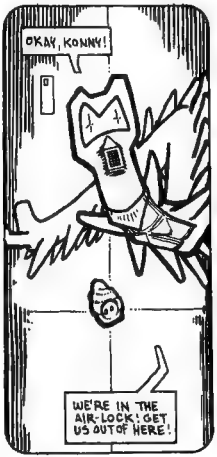


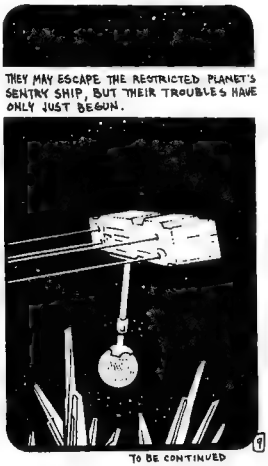
GET YOUR LEGS UP HERE, CZU. FAST!

OH GREAT! THE MINUTE WE CAN SAFELY LEAVE, THE LAW SHOWS UP! (I'LL NEVER PLAY NEEL-CARDS AGAIN!)

HURRY, CZU... IT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE NOTICED OUR SHIP YET. THERE'S STILL A CHANCE WE CAN SNEAK AWAY.







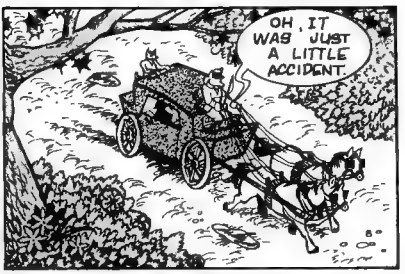
TO BE CONTINUED

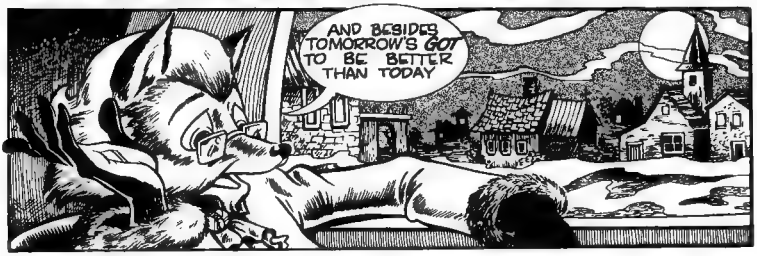
Rufus the Red
JONATHAN REDFOX AND HIS FATHER RETURN FROM THE NOCTURNA ESTATE WHERE JON AND PORSHA'S BETROTHAL PARTY ENDED EARLIER THAN PLANNED. FROM JON'S FAILED FORMULA AT THE PERFUME DEVELOPEMENT LAB TO HIS SPILLING PUNCH ON PORSHA THIS DAY HAS NOT BEEN KIND TO HIM. IT HASN'T BEEN SO GREAT FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HIM EITHER.....
WRITTEN BY DOUG DURBROW
ART AND LETTERING BY MONIKA LIVINGSTON

I'M SURE SHE'LL GET OVER IT .... EVENTUALLY

BUT EVEN IF SHE DOES FORGIVE ME...

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO FACE HER AGAIN!

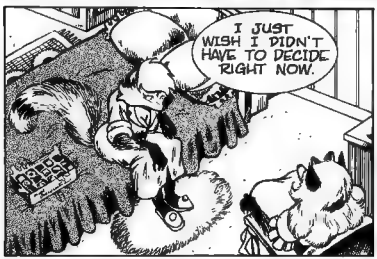

OH, IT WAS JUST A LITTLE ACCIDENT.

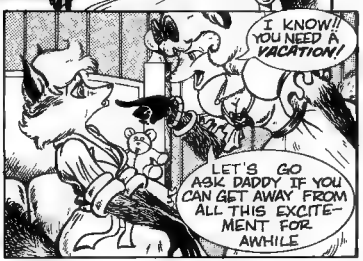

AND BESIDES TOMORROW'S GOT TO BE BETTER THAN TODAY

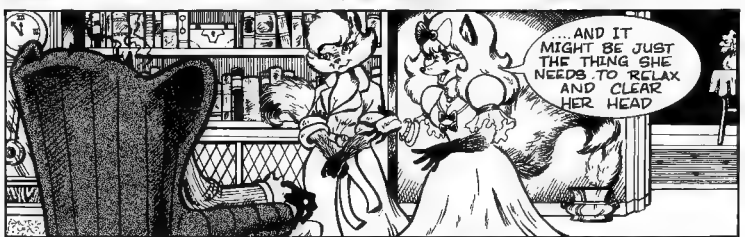
WHILE BACK IN PORSHA'S BEDROOM
OH, ADRIANNA NOW WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? IF I DON'T MARRY THIS WHIMP...
GOODNESS SIS/YOU KNOW THAT YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF
I'LL GROW OLD WORKING ON UNCLE HARRY'S ONION FARM!
WHY, REMEMBER THE DUKE OF ORO? YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE WITH HIM
Chocolates
ECH! ORANGE CREAM
YOU MEAN THE DUKE OF EGO! HE JUST COULDN'T STAND TO LOSE AT ANYTHING!
LOST AGAIN DUKE!
WELL YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WIN AT DUELING, ARCHERY AND CHESS!
HE LIKED TO COMPETE DIDN'T HE?
NO HE LIKED TO WIN!
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT CUTE DIRK HONEYWOOD? HE LIKED YOU A LOT UNTIL YOU STARTED SHOWING OFF AND PLAYING WITH YOUR KNIFE COLLECTION!
OH.. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY
I WOULDN'T HAVE HURT HIM....MUCH!
MAYBE HE WAS JUST EMBARRASSED
YOU KNOW LIKE THAT ALFRED 'WHAT'S-HIS-NAME' FELLOW WAS WHEN YOU OUTRODE HIM ON HORSEBACK

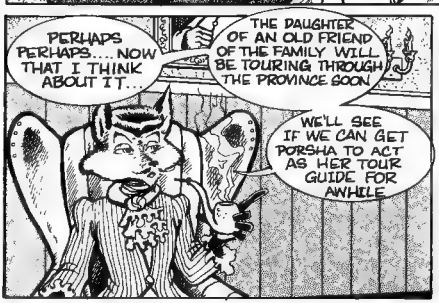
GOODNESS, PORSHA, YOU'VE GONE THROUGH JUST ABOUT ALL THE ELIGIBLES IN THE PROVINCE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE LESS PICKY AND STOP SCARING THEM OFF, OR...
MUGS of Chocolate

.....LEARN TO LIKE THE SMELL OF ONIONS!


I JUST WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT NOW.
PRESS PLEASE


I KNOW!! YOU NEED A VACATION!
LET'S GO ASK DADDY IF YOU CAN GET AWAY FROM ALL THIS EXCITEMENT FOR AWHILE


....AND IT MIGHT BE JUST THE THING SHE NEEDS TO RELAX AND CLEAR HER HEAD


PERHAPS PERHAPS.... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
THE DAUGHTER OF AN OLD FRIEND OF THE FAMILY WILL BE TOURING THROUGH THE PROVINCE SOON
WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN GET PORSHA TO ACT AS HER TOUR GUIDE FOR AWHILE

WHO KNOWS, SIS, MAYBE I'LL MEET SOMEONE TALL, DARK, AND EXCITING WHILE I'M GONE!
HEE, HEE HEE

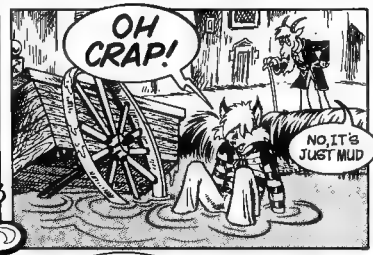
THE NEXT DAY
DARN! HERE COMES AUNT SADIE AND UNCLE WHATS-HIS-NAME WHAT DO THEY WANT NOW?
OH JONATHAN DARLING
I HEARD WE HAD A LITTLE MESSY-POO LAST NIGHT AT THE PARTY
THAT POOR GIRL. I DO HOPE IT DOESN'T INFLUENCE HER OPINION OF US.
I DON'T THINK IT WILL MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE
GOOD! WE ALL KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS MARRIAGE IS FOR THE GOOD OF REDFOX PERFUMES
JUST TRYING TO PROTECT OUR INVESTMENT, JONNY
WE'LL BE EXPECTING YOU TWO TO ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR THE WEDDING SOON
REDFO
JONNY ECH!
WELL, I SEE WHAT INTERRUPTED YOUR UNLOADING OF THE SHIPMENT
IS TOO BAD THEY HAVE TO COME AROUND AND DISTURB OUR WORK
JUST TO LET US KNOW THEY STILL OWN PART OF THE BUSINESS
NO THEY'RE NOT
BUT THEY ARE NOT ALL THAT BOTHERS YOU, EH JONATHAN?
YESTERDAY'S EVENTS STILL TROUBLE YOU, I SEE. WELL LIFE GOES ON. WE WILL ALL RECOVER, AS WILL YOU. BUT FOR NOW, LET US FINISH UNLOADING THESE RARE FLOWERS SO WE MAY START OUR NEXT BATCH OF PERFUME.
CLICK
REDFOX
CREEK!
REDFO
WHOOSH
REDFOX

OH NO!

AAAARRG!

COME BACK HERE YOU!

AEEEE-EEEE
SPLASH!


OH CRAP!
NO, IT'S JUST MUD

I'M TAKING THE DAY OFF!

SO THE AFTERNOON SEES JONATHAN TAKING OUT HIS FRUSTRATIONS BY INDULGING IN HIS FAVORITE SPORT, TARGET SHOOTING. HIS MANY YEARS OF PRACTICE HAVE MADE HIM AN EXPERT SHOT.
TAKE THAT! AND THAT! AND THAT!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
REDROX
PERSUADES

ANOTHER BAD DAY I SEE. WELL YOU'D BEST BE GETTING CLEANED UP FOR DINNER NOW. TOMORROW PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE A NICE LONG TALK

AFTER DINNER JONATHAN DECIDES THAT A WALK INTO TOWN WILL CLEAR HIS HEAD. HE SOON FINDS HIMSELF HEADING TOWARDS THE FIGHTING COCK TAVERN, A LOCAL HANG OUT FOR SAILORS, TRADERS, AND OTHERS OF "QUESTIONABLE" LIVELYHOODS.
FISH
PASSAGE
JONATHAN LOVED THE SEA AND ALTHOUGH WARNED BY HIS FATHER TO STAY CLEAR OF THE TAVERN HE WOULD SOMETIMES SNEAK IN JUST TO LISTEN TO THE ADVENTURES TOLD BY THE SAILORS.
... AND BEFORE WE COULD REACH 'IM, THIS BIG WAVE SMASHES ACROSS THE DECK DRAGGIN' I'M O'ER THE SIDE AN' DOWN INTA DAVEY JONES' LOCKER
GOSH!
ENTERTAINMENT IS PROVIDED BY THE OWNER'S DAUGHTER, AND SOMETIMES, BY THE PATRON'S THEMSELVES.....
CUTE CHICK, EH?
I TELL YA LADDIE IN LESS THAN A FULL CYCLE OF THE MOON WE'LL BE DOIN' ALRIGHT!
HAVE YE TURTLE AT PALADIUM
SUDDENLY, JONATHANS ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE BAR AND AN OLD FAMILIAR VOICE.
UNCLE... UNCLE AUGUSTUS !!!
WELL I'LL BE KEELHAULED! IF IT AIN'T ME NEPHEW JONATHAN WHOM I AIN'T SEEN IN A DUCKS AGE!

JONATHAN MEET ME FIRST MATE STRIPES O'MALLEY
WE MET ONCE BEFORE A WHILE BACK, NOW COME AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES AT SEA!
SO! YOU'RE STILL SNEAKIN' DOWN 'ERE TO LISTEN TO THESE OL' SHELLBACKS SPIN OUT THIER STORIES, EH?
YEAH I JUST LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT PIRATES AND BATTLES AND EXCITING STUFF LIKE THAT!
WELL, UNTIL LATELY, THINGS AIN'T BEEN TOO EXCITIN, BUT NOW....
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT, CAP'N. WHAT IF THEY FIND US?
HA! YER FELINE INTUITIONS GOT YA SPOOKED AGAIN, MATE
GOLLY!
I TELL YA, THIS 'ERE MAP'S GONNA MAKE US ALL RICHER THAN THE SEA!
YA SEE, LADDIE, YESTERDAY WE STUMBLED ACROSS THE CAMP OF THAT SCOUNDREL MARLEY FLAGG
WHILE WE WAS HIDIN' IN THE BUSHES, WE OVERHEARD 'EM TALKIN' BOUT A TREASURE MAP..
SO WE WAITED 'TILL THE WEE HOURS, THEN WE SLID RIGHT PASSED THIER BIG NOSES AN TOOK IT!
WOW!! A STOLEN TREASURE MAP! CAN I SEE IT?!
SHHH! LADDIE NOT EVEN THE REST OF THE CREW KNOWS 'BOUT THIS YET!
WE'RE TO MEET UP WITH 'EM AT THE SHIP IN THE MORNIN' WHEN THEY'RE ALL DUE BACK FROM LEAVE!
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US FOR OUR LITTLE TREASURE HUNT, EH?

WOULD I?! I'D LOVE TO BUT THE BUSINESS...
AH YES! REDFOX PERFUMES A FATE I NARROWLY MISSED MESELF. IT'S SUCH AN EXCITIN' CAREER

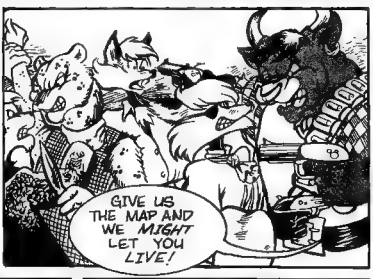
NOW ERE'S EX-CITEMENT! I FIGURE WE'LL EACH GET A BIG ENOUGH SHARE O'LOOT TO BUY OUR OWN BUSINESSES..
PERFUMIN' OR NAY!
CAP'N I DON'T THINK NOW'S THE TIME FER RECRUITIN'

YOU KNOW I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE SEA AND I SHOULD JUST JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO SAIL RIGHT OUT OF HERE BUT....
BUT YER AFRAID THE WHOLE PERFUME INDUSTRY WON'T SURVIVE WITHOUT YA, EH?

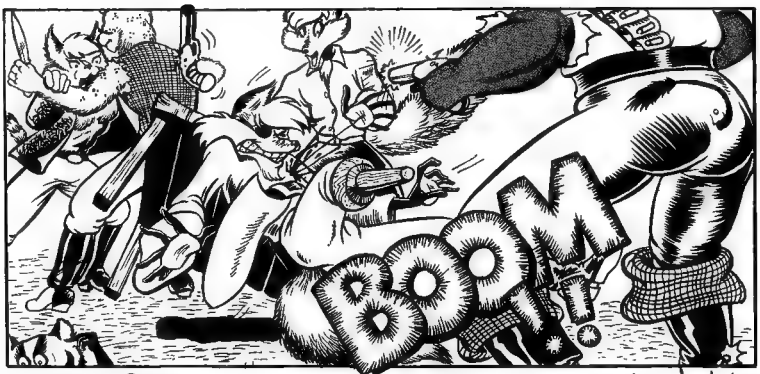
LADDIE YOU'VE BEEN ROMANCIN UP TA YER FATHER'S TAIL EVER SINCE YA BEEN A PUP AND YA AIN'T GOT A THING TA SHOW FER IT!

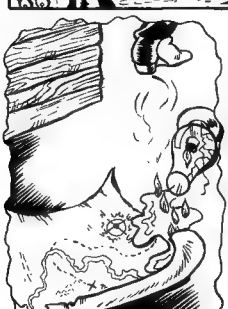
A FEW MONTHS AT SEA WILL TURN THIS PUP INTO A.

WHERE'S THAT SLIMEY THIEF!!
WHOOSH!
THERE 'E IS!

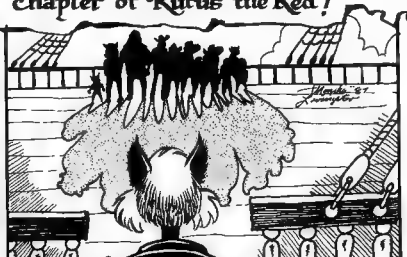

GIVE US THE MAP AND WE MIGHT LET YOU LIVE!

?
WE DON'T WANT A FIGHT BESIDES THERE'S THREE OF US AN' ONLY TWO OF YOU!

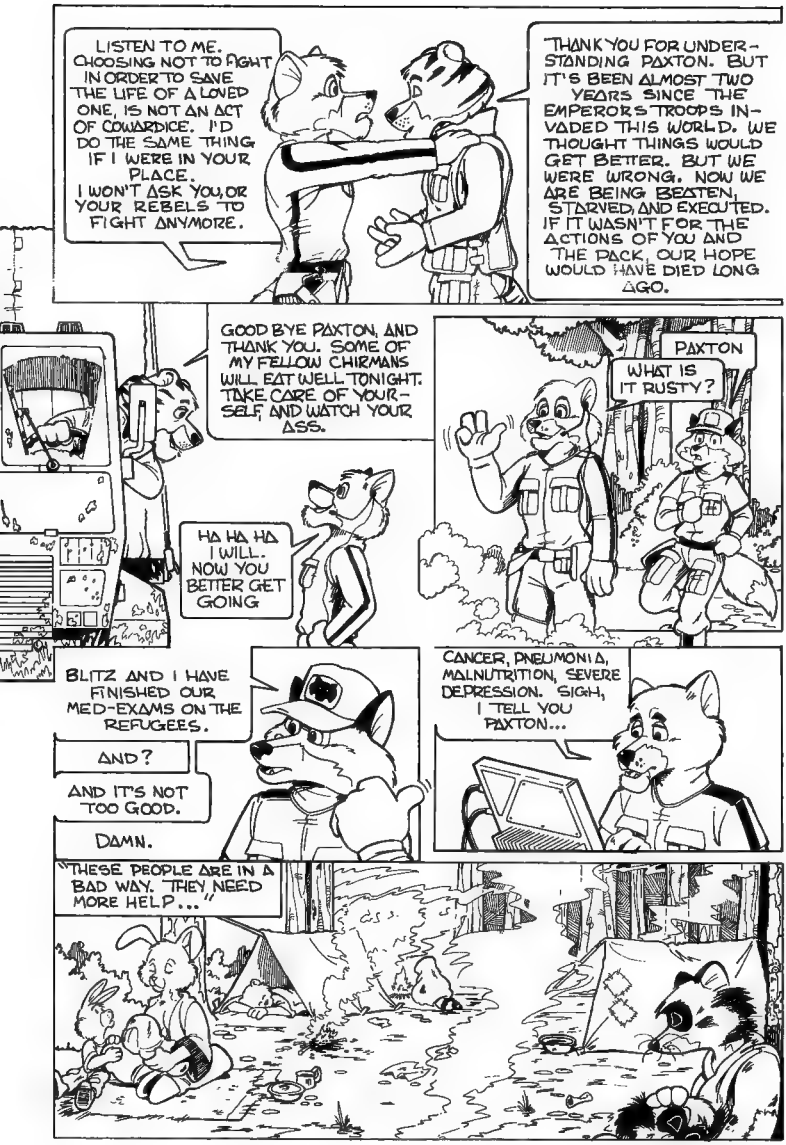




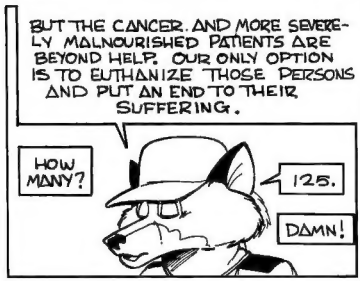
Will Jonathan get a load of bull? Will Augustus learn better manners? Will Rufus the Red save the day? But most important....will the map survive? Find out in the next chapter of Rufus the Red!



SPACE WOLF
JUST BEFORE DAWN, ON THE PLANET CHIRMA, IN THE CAMBIA SYSTEM.
WE'RE NEARLY FINISHED DOWN HERE IRONHAND. HOW DO THINGS LOOK FROM UP THERE?
SCANNERS ARE CLEAR, IT'S NICE AND QUIET. NOT A SIGN OF ANY IMPERIAL TRAFFIC IN YOUR AREA.
YEAH, WELL AT THE FIRST HINT OF TROUBLE YOU GUYS BREAK ORBIT AND GET YOUR BUTTS BACK TO THE ROCK. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. OUT.
WELL EZZERHAUN, THAT DOES IT FOR THIS LOAD. WILL YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE IN GETTING THIS FOOD TO THE HUNGRY?
NONE AT ALL. MY MEN AND I WILL SEE TO THAT.
HOW IS YOUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST RAMMUS' TROOPS GOING?
IT ISN'T
WHY!?
EACH TIME WE'D STRIKE, THE REGIONAL GARRISON COMMANDER PUNISHED US BY EXECUTING 100 PRISONERS. ⟨SNIFF⟩ AND JUST 3 MONTHS AGO THEY ARRESTED MY WIFE. I... ⟨SNIFF⟩ I CAN'T FIGHT ANYMORE. I'M SORRY PAXTON, I'M A COWARD. BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE MY LEENORA DRAGGED INTO THE STREET AND SHOT.
STORY & ART - DAN HAHIVE
© D.J.F. 10·87
SW P1


LISTEN TO ME. CHOOSING NOT TO FIGHT IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A LOVED ONE, IS NOT AN ACT OF COWARDICE. I'D DO THE SAME THING IF I WERE IN YOUR PLACE. I WON'T ASK YOU, OR YOUR REBELS TO FIGHT ANYMORE.
THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING PAXTON. BUT IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWO YEARS SINCE THE EMPEROR'S TROOPS INVADED THIS WORLD. WE THOUGHT THINGS WOULD GET BETTER. BUT WE WERE WRONG. NOW WE ARE BEING BEATEN, STARVED, AND EXECUTED. IF IT WASN'T FOR THE ACTIONS OF YOU AND THE PACK, OUR HOPE WOULD HAVE DIED LONG AGO.
GOOD BYE PAXTON, AND THANK YOU. SOME OF MY FELLOW CHIRMANS WILL EAT WELL TONIGHT. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, AND WATCH YOUR ASS.
PAXTON
WHAT IS IT RUSTY?
HA HA HA I WILL. NOW YOU BETTER GET GOING
BLITZ AND I HAVE FINISHED OUR MED-EXAMS ON THE REFUGEES.
AND?
AND IT'S NOT TOO GOOD.
DAMN.
CANCER, PNEUMONIA, MALNUTRITION, SEVERE DEPRESSION. SIGH, I TELL YOU PAXTON...
"THESE PEOPLE ARE IN A BAD WAY. THEY NEED MORE HELP..."

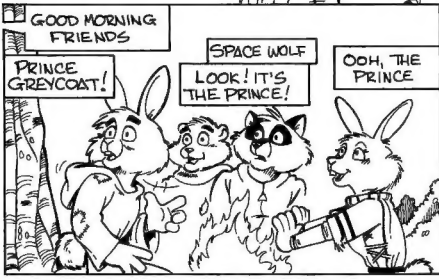
...THAN WE CAN GIVE THEM HERE.
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO!?
WE CAN TREAT SOME OF THEIR ILLS, PNEUMONIA, DYSENTERY AND THE LIKE....


BUT THE CANCER. AND MORE SEVERELY MALNOURISHED PATIENTS ARE BEYOND HELP. OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO EUTHANIZE THOSE PERSONS AND PUT AN END TO THEIR SUFFERING.
HOW MANY?
125.
DAMN!

WHO'S GOING TO DO IT?
I WILL.
BLITZ? ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH (SIGH), YEAH I'M SURE.
OKAY, THEN RUSTY AND I WILL SEE HOW THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS GOING.

SON OF A...! LOOK AT THIS!
YEAH, EVERY DAY IT GETS WORSE. AND NOT JUST THIS PLANET...
BUT ALL THE OTHER PLANETS AND STAR SYSTEMS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC.

WHY DOESN'T THE EMPEROR JUST RULE THESE PEOPLE? WHY TORTURE THEM WITH STARVATION AND EXECUTION?
WHEN EMPEROR HAVA ATTEMPTED TO CONQUER THE GALAXY, HIS FORCES SUFFERED A HUMILIATING DEFEAT BY MY UNCLES STAR FLEET. ALTHOUGH HE FAILED TO SEIZE OUR BELOVED CANIS SYSTEM, HE DID CONQUER THE OUTER SYSTEMS. AND IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE OUR ALLIES THAT THEY ARE BEING MADE TO SUFFER FOR THE EMPIRES HUMILIATION. (SIGH) C'MON.

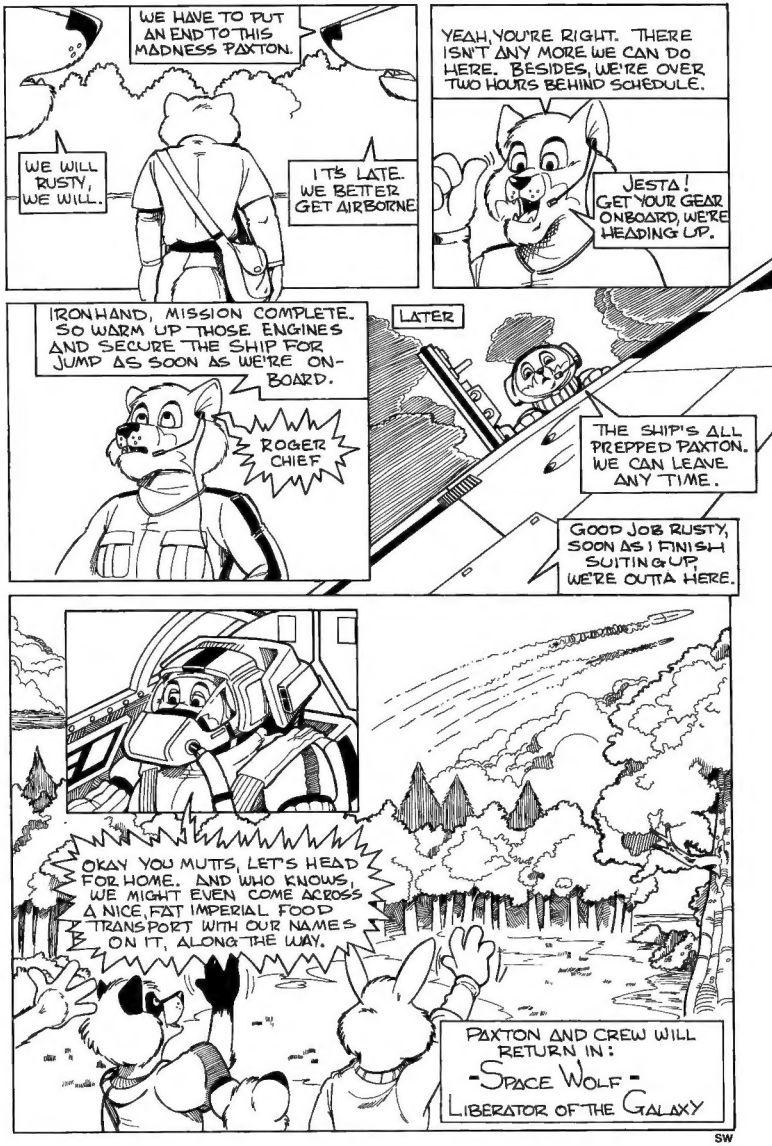

GOOD MORNING FRIENDS
PRINCE GREYCOAT!
SPACE WOLF
LOOK! IT'S THE PRINCE!
OOH, THE PRINCE

ARE YOU ALL EATING WELL? AND KEEPING WARM?
YES.
OH YES, THANK YOU.

AS PAXTON AND RUSTY CONTINUE THEIR TOUR OF THE REFUGEE CAMP.
BLESS YOU SPACE WOLF, FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE. BLESS YOU.

IT'S DONE PAXTON.
ARE YOU OKAY BLITZ?

"YEAH, I'M... (CHOKE) I'M FINE"
"SHIT"


WE HAVE TO PUT AN END TO THIS MADNESS PAXTON.
WE WILL RUSTY, WE WILL.
IT'S LATE. WE BETTER GET AIRBORNE
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE ISN'T ANY MORE WE CAN DO HERE. BESIDES, WE'RE OVER TWO HOURS BEHIND SCHEDULE.
JESTA! GET YOUR GEAR ONBOARD, WE'RE HEADING UP.
IRONHAND, MISSION COMPLETE. SO WARM UP THOSE ENGINES AND SECURE THE SHIP FOR JUMP AS SOON AS WE'RE ON-BOARD.
ROGER CHIEF
LATER
THE SHIP'S ALL PREPPED PAXTON. WE CAN LEAVE ANY TIME.
GOOD JOB RUSTY, SOON AS I FINISH SUITING UP, WE'RE OUTTA HERE.
OKAY YOU MUTTS, LET'S HEAD FOR HOME. AND WHO KNOWS, WE MIGHT EVEN COME ACROSS A NICE, FAT IMPERIAL FOOD TRANSPORT WITH OUR NAMES ON IT, ALONG THE WAY.
PAXTON AND CREW WILL RETURN IN:
-SPACE WOLF-
LIBERATOR OF THE GALAXY

So, what's happening? Thoughts & Images is expanding its line of titles, and reaffirming its commitment to maintain the quality, and improve the reliability of its current production. Gosh! Doesn't that sound exciting? So official and all. Actually, like the line says, we're in the process of getting some new stuff going and having a new production manager take care of all the biz.

First, the new stuff. **Xanadu,** by Vicky Wyman, will be a romantic fantasy, cast with both mythical and mundane anthropomorphs, in dramatic black and white. It's looking real good so far, and will have short back-ups by yet to be determined.

In a somewhat similar vein, **Adventure Tails**, the tentative title for Monika Livingston's book, which will feature *"Rufus the Red,"* which also means he will be making his last appearance in Albedo nr. 12.

And thinking about that, **Albedo** nr. 13 and beyond will be back to mostly *"Erma Felna, EDF,"* with the occasional *"Konny and Czu"* or other back-up. Speaking of which, there is in the works, a collected *"Konny and Czu"* book, something like **Command Review**, by Matt Howarth and Mike Kister. As for other back-ups and such, Adrian Klienbergen, Dan Flahive, and others are quite interested in helping pad the pages of several of these titles.

Last, and longest in coming, Monika Livingston is working on issue 2 of **Zell, Sworddancer.** Me, Steve Gallacci, is writing and designing it, and we hope to have it back on schedule this spring. Donne Barr will have little bits in it too.

The big question is when. The actual publishing schedule won't be finalized for some weeks, at least. Reason being, we don't want to start soliciting stuff before we can guarantee its publication. Each title's released date won't be official until the art in-hand, ready for press, and the next issue's worth are well under way. So, keep your eyes open for the amazing media blitz when we can officially start pitching all this stuff.

As for this issue, I hope you-all like the change in art style in *Erma*. I wanted to try a different and, hopefully, more successful inking technique which would calm my critics and encourage my fans. I like it myself, it better matches what I'd like Erma to look like, and allows me more detail and discourages quicky airbrush cover-ups. For those who want to know, it's niji stylist fine-line marker on cold-press illustration board. Last, thanks for the letters and such and I'll have a letters column again, probably starting with nr. 13.